

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of April 10, 2006**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Donald Wallace, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Michael Demasi, Kenneth Johnson, and Roger LeClair. Also present were Town Manager Nanci Allard, Clerk Samantha Baraw, Warren Hagy, Stephen Hatch, and Suzanne Jolly (Greater Northfield Coalition Council).

Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **March 27, 2006 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. Correction: Item VI, A, there was no count of the motion. The motion was made by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Demasi. **Motion passed 4-0-1, with Selectman Adams abstaining.**
- b. **April 4, 2006 (Special Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Demasi, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #20-06.** Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve Warrant #20-06 in the amount of \$91,806.47. There were questions on some invoices for towing on the police vehicles. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a. **Suzanne Jolly (Greater Northfield Coalition Council): Drug-Free Communities.** Ms. Jolly is the Director of Drug-Free Communities. She wanted to update what's going on with the grant that was received for the GNCC. They opened the resource center with a grand opening. The center includes information on alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. They have been working with the Northfield Police Department to give them resources to targeted audiences.

V. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Agency of Transportation Request to Monitor Northfield Roads.** The State Vtrans has asked that we issue participate in a study to test some of the roads. Superintendent Lyon has suggested Lover's Lane as a starting point. Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the installation of monitors and conduct tests on backroads with the approval of the Highway Superintendent. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **Proposed Corrections Work Camp.** At the last meeting there was an update. Manager Allard suggests a public hearing. The Village Trustees are in agreement to go to the next step. Chair would like a public hearing as part of a joint meeting. There will be a meeting sometime after May 14, 2006.
- c. **Safety Committee Update.** The Committee is working towards complying with required safety training. The Municipal Building will open an hour later (9:00 a.m.) on Wednesday, April 12, 2006 so the staff can have training on fire safety, fire extinguishers, and building evacuation.

- d. **Skateboard Park.** The skateboard park is falling apart and is becoming a liability. Our liability insurance agent will be looking into it. The Selectboard did not include any money in the budget for upkeep. Chair suggested that the Manager contact Sally Davidson to ask her to “shape it up or ship it out.” Motion by Selectman LeClair, seconded by Selectman Demasi, to have the Manager contact Sally Davidson to discuss the state of disrepair and that it either must be fixed up or eliminated; second, until this occurs, the Public Works Superintendent make the skate park inoperable. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- e. **Status Reports: Various Projects:**
 - 1. **CVRR Land Purchase.** Manager Allard announced that today (04/10/06) we received the deed from Central Vermont Railroad for the land behind the Fire Station.

VI. SELECTBOARD

- a. **State Tax Appeal Decisions:** Approval for Refunds (Elwell, Enman, & Miller): No action taken.
- b. **Status Reports: Various Projects:**
 - 1. There will be an Inter-Local Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.
 - 2. May 6, 2006 is Green Up Day. Please meet behind the fire station at 9:00 a.m. for coffee then green up. We expect to be done by noon.
 - 3. A Joint Board Meeting is being planned for next week on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. Among other items, a committee will be set up to deal with Town/Village merger.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items:

- a. **Stephen Hatch.** Mr. Hatch, the former Zoning Administrator who resigned without notice, wanted to discuss his last timecard. He submitted a timecard for 77 ½ hours. The Manager stated that he would be paid for only sixty (60) hours because that is the budgeted amount and that is all he is authorized to work. Mr. Hatch has requested to be paid for the additional 17 ½ hours. Selectman LeClair wanted to know the time period. It was the weeks of March 18 and March 26, 2006. The standard number of hours had been sixty (60). Mr. Hatch stated that due to meetings for the Planning and Zoning Commissions, he was required to put in additional hours. Selectman Adams asked if Mr. Hatch had received authorization to work these additional hours. Mr. Hatch said he did not. Selectman Johnson wanted to know if Mr. Hatch was an hourly or salaried employee. Manager Allard stated that he was hourly. The question is whether it is standard that Mr. Hatch gets paid thirty (30) hours a week or whether he gets paid for the actual amount of time worked. Chair Wallace asked if Mr. Hatch itemized the timesheet. Mr. Hatch stated yes, he did. Manager Allard contradicted that statement. The Selectboard could ask Manager Allard for the timesheet. Manager Allard has asked Mr. Hatch to meet with her about this issue; however, Mr. Hatch refused.

Selectman Johnson asked Mr. Hatch if he would like to answer the question of why he resigned his position. Mr. Hatch stated that he found out that the position was being cut to twenty-four (24) hours from thirty (30) hours and that benefits would be cut as well. Mr. Hatch stated that he did not talk to Manager Allard because “there weren’t enough hours in the day to do the job,” not to mention to take time to talk to Manager Allard.

Motion by Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to pay Mr. Hatch the additional 17½ hours on the timesheet submitted. **Motion passed 4-1-0, with Chair Wallace voting in opposition.**

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the motion to enter into executive session for to discuss a personnel matter. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:05 p.m. No action was taken.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Selectman Demasi, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled meeting.